

**THE REMARKS**

**The Amendments**

The above amendment is made using the Examiner's Amendment dated November 13, 2008 as base claims.

Claim 16 is amended to correct the antecedent basis.

No new matter is added in the amendments.

**Telephone Interview**

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Monshipouri for the courtesy telephone interview on December 1, 2008. During the interview, Claim 16 is discussed.

Applicant believes that in Claim 16 (d), the original recitation of "proteorhodopsin mutant" is correct in terms of antecedent basis. Further, in Claim 16(a), "the naturally occurring proteorhodopsin" is redundant in view of the recitation of "the proteorhodopsin variant of claim 1."

Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner consider and enter the amendment.

Date: December 1, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Viola T. Kung, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 41,131)

HOWREY LLP  
2941 Fairview Park Drive, Box 7  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
Tel: (650) 798-3570  
Fax: (650) 798-3600